

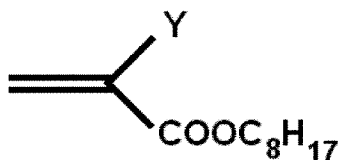
REMARKS

I. All claims stand rejected as anticipated by **Sonnabend (US 4,384,096)**

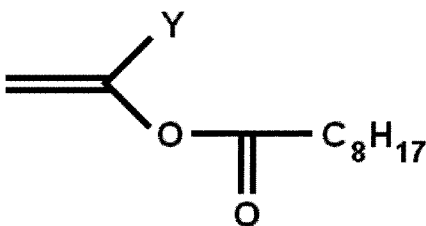
It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's analysis regarding component B of **Sonnabend** is erroneous. Specifically, Sonnabend's disclosure of "a non-ionic copolymerizable C2-C12 alpha, beta – ethylenically unsaturated monomer, preferably a monovinyl ester"¹ does not anticipate "alkyl esters of C8-C30 monocarboxylic acids" as claimed in the present application.

The only C8 alkyl structures that can theoretically be derived from the generic formula (II) of Sonnabend are:

a. Ester of unsaturated C3 monocarboxylic acid with saturated C8 alcohol



b. Vinyl ester of saturated C9 monocarboxylic acid



Therefore, Sonnabend discloses neither components corresponding to B) (1), esters of unsaturated C8-C30 monocarboxylic acids, nor components corresponding to B) (3), esters of unsaturated C8-C30 alcohols, of this invention.

¹ Abstract of Sonnabend (US 4,384,096).

It is also respectfully submitted that Sonnabend discloses polymeric thickeners consisting of components A), B), and C). The amount of component A) and the type of components B) and C) are completely different from the monomers of this invention. There is no motivation for a person of ordinary skill in the art to change the amounts and kinds of monomers to come to the copolymers of this invention.

II. All claims stand rejected as anticipated by or alternatively as obvious over Gordi (SU 428347)

The copolymers disclosed by Gordi do not comprise 0.05 – 5% by weight of cross-linking component D, as is now claimed, according to the claim amendments. Thus, the present invention is not anticipated by Gordi.

“To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.”²

Gordi fails to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations of the amended claims. As discussed above, the copolymers disclosed by Gordi do not comprise 0.05 – 5% by weight of cross-linking component D. Thus, the present invention is not *prima facie* obviousness over Gordi.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested.

² MPEP §2143.